# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5729
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011
VACANCY OF POSTS IN PASSPORT OFFICES
Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether there are a number of vacant posts in Passport Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, cadre-wise;

(c) whether due to vacant posts in the said offices, the passport work has been delayed and passport holders are not getting desired service;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for not filling the vacant posts; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts in the said offices?

## Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Yes. The details are attached at ANNEXURE-I.

(c) & (d) Yes. The shortage of staff strength in the Central Passport Organization, not keeping with the increase in demand for services, has led to some delay in passport issuance. However, in spite of manpower constraints, the 37 Passport Offices in India have issued 52.51 lakh passports and rendered 6.76 lakh miscellaneous passport services in 2010 which are a record ever achieved in any year.

(e) A number of unfilled vacancies are due to slow pace of candidates made available through the open recruitment by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and litigation by officials in various grades of CPO which has slowed down efforts to recruit new staff.

Further, for the posts at Group A & B level, in spite of best efforts, Ministry has not been able to fill these posts even through deputation from other Ministries/Departments as most of them are also short of manpower.

(f) The Ministry is making concerted efforts to fill up these positions through faster promotion, recruitment through Staff Selection Commission, deputation and appointment of Data Entry Operators on temporary basis against unfilled positions. The Government has deployed 311 Data Entry Operators to meet the short term requirement of staff against the available vacancies.

A Departmental Promotion Committee meeting was recently held on 26th August, 2011 to fill up the existing 75 posts of Passport Granting Officers. The existing vacancies in different grades are being filled up subject to recruitment rules and fulfillment of eligibility conditions.